

# THE GATEWAY

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**DROP DEAD** Figuratively, of course. The U of A's second annual anti-smoking campaign, dubbed Drop Dead, gathered students in Quad yesterday to fall to the ground in a dramatic effort to illustrate the effects of smoking. Demonstrators from across Alberta participated to protest the 3400 Albertans who die from tobacco-related illnesses every year.

MATT FRESHNER

## Telus labour dispute brought to campus

TIM PEPPIN  
Opinion Editor

The ongoing labour dispute at Telus came to the U of A on Tuesday, as a small group of employees and protesters formed a picket line at Myer Horowitz Theatre, where Telus held an information session to recruit new employees.

The session, which proceeded without incident, was perceived by many of the protesters and locked-out employees as a "scab fair"—an attempt to recruit students to replace positions previously held by members of the Telecommunication Workers Union (TWU). But Jim Johannsson, the director of service development at Telus, denied that charge.

"What we're recruiting here today are managers, primarily, to fill key technical, managerial and financial roles," Johannsson said. "These are not roles that we would anticipate would be used to replace workers in any way, shape or form. The recruiting cycle normally takes three months to bring somebody in. We're hoping the strike will be over long before we actually have any of the folks we're trying to recruit here today in their jobs."

However, Rob Hidari, a Telus employee, U of A student and protest organizer, was skeptical of Johannsson's claim.

"Typically, in previous information sessions that they've held on campus, their purpose has been to recruit computer science and computer engineering graduates, or students to work in areas that support customers directly," Hidari said.

"They're claiming this year that they're not intending to hire anyone for those positions, since those positions are a part of the union and are

currently locked out by Telus. We don't believe them in this case, because they have never held a career session without the intention of hiring for those areas."

Turnout for the session itself was modest, with perhaps 20 students in attendance.

Anthony Chen, a computer engineering student who was in attendance, explained that he was there out of curiosity.

**"What we're recruiting here today are managers, primarily, to fill key technical, managerial, and financial roles."**

JIM JOHANNSSON, TELUS,  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

"Telus seems to have good graduate programs," he said. "I just came to check it out, talk to some of the people who work there, just see what their take on it is, and see if maybe I can just learn a little bit more about it."

When asked how much he knew about the lockout, and if he'd consider working as a replacement employee, he was non-committal.

"[I don't know] enough to comment. [Working for Telus] would depend on the way things are going, I guess. You never know."

Many students had questions during the course of the session that pertained directly or indirectly to the labour dispute. Ibrahim Gedeon, a Telus employee who led the information session, refused to respond on several occasions.

PLEASE SEE HIRING • PAGE 4

## SU election won't fill seats

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Senior News Editor

The Students' Union is holding by-elections today and tomorrow to try to fill vacant seats on Students' Council and the General Faculties Council (GFC), but there hasn't been a rush of students hoping to take office.

In total, there are nine candidates for six seats on Students' Council, while seven vacant seats have no one running for them. Science is the only faculty with more than one candidate, as four students are running for a single seat (though, under SU bylaws, the first runner-up will be asked to take a seat being vacated by the resignation of a Science counselor who is transferring to Medicine). Five more

faculties have one candidate each, and their elections will consist of a yes/no ballot. Pharmacy and Rehab Medicine each saw no candidates, and will remain without representation on Council for the remainder of the year.

There are also only three candidates for GFC seats—one each in Arts, Medicine and Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics—leaving twelve unsought seats on the highest academic legislative body at the University.

The low candidate turnout is expected to be accompanied by a low voter turnout; general elections for Council and GFC usually only see between five and seven per cent of student votes, but turnout for by-elections is generally even lower.

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## Forum examines postsecondary review

CHLOÉ FÉDIO  
Deputy News Editor

As the provincial government's post-secondary education review continues, time is running out for the public to contribute their recommendations on changes that need to be made to the system. Hoping to foster debate about postsecondary education and give students a voice in the matter, Public Interest Alberta (PIA) organized an open forum on campus yesterday.

However, despite the busy campus, students in the room were few and far between.

"I think the reality is that students are under pressure not only to study, to go to classes and all of those things,

but to work. So often, people are too busy to give up two hours of their time," said PIA Executive Director Bill Moore-Kilgannon.

**"Students' primary job is to be students, but because of the cost of our education, we're having more students working part-time jobs than we did 20 years ago."**

SAM POWER, SU VP (EXTERNAL)

Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education, Dave Hancock, was unable to attend due to an ambassadorial trip to Mexico, but opposition MLAs Dave Taylor and Raj Pannu, the Liberal and NDP advanced education critics, were both in attendance to listen to the public's concerns.

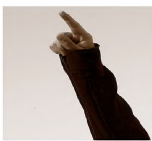
Students' Union Vice-President (External) Sam Power also sat on the panel, focusing on the rising costs in tuition as the greatest detriment to students.

"Students' primary job is to be students, but because of the cost of our education, we're now having more students working part-time jobs than we did 20 years ago," she said.

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## Lost? Get a map

But be careful which map you're following. A lot of the ones around campus won't help.

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## Beat the Odds

While they're less flashy than most gambling formats, VLTs are also the most destructive.

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## THE GATEWAY

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## Aging without losing your mind is possible: study

TRISTAN FOJINSBEE  
News Writer

The commonly held perception that old age always leads to a severe loss of intellectual ability is outdated, according to a recently published study by a professor at the University of Alberta.

The study, a literature survey that analyzed the results of about 120 previous studies, was co-authored by the U of A's Dr Dennis Foth and Dr Gordon Thompson of the University of Saskatchewan. It found that not everyone suffers a loss of mental ability as they age, that what loss does occur affects only certain parts of the brain, and that those intellectual losses are often reversible.

To reverse any decline that may occur, Foth explained, the best bet for seniors is to participate in mentally challenging activities they enjoy as part of their normal lives, which he refers to in his study as "ecologically valid" activities.

"An ecologically valid activity is something you do everyday, like [reading], or potentially a crossword puzzle. Crossword puzzles [are] both problem solving and they exercise the memory," he said.

According to the study, other ways to reverse mental declines might be travelling, acting, navigating websites or

learning to play a musical instrument.

Foth pointed out that reversing mental declines is not possible for the ten per cent of the population that suffers from a pathological condition like Alzheimer's disease or strokes. However, for the other 90 per cent, this information is as important for a 20-year-old as it is for a senior citizen.

"If you can establish good cognitive habits now, these will carry forward with you throughout life," he said.

Foth also found that people often perceive their mental abilities to be worse than they actually are, and are often quick to blame a minor forgetful episode on more serious problems.

Foth further explained that, for the past ten years, researchers are largely in agreement that mental functions do not always decline in late adulthood, and the public is only now becoming aware that it's not inevitable. In fact, the survey found that certain aspects of intelligence—like total vocabulary and vocabulary comprehension—often continue to improve even into a person's seventh decade.

As academic director of the U of A's certificate in adult and continuing education, Foth sees potential for incorporating the information gained from this study into classes at the Faculty of Extension. He said that, while there are many types of classes that can improve



SHARP AS A TACK Dr Foth says that senility and aging don't go hand in hand.

cognitive skills, the trick is finding ones that people enjoy.

"For a lot of people, they're not into physics or math; maybe reading a mystery novel is a problem-solving activity, and we can get the same skill set and problem-solving from something [such] as, for them, would be ecologically valid. So, have a course in extension on mystery novels," Foth said.

But ultimately, this study has raised as many questions as answers. There is extensive research on this subject, and Foth's survey found that each

study's use of different methods and measures means that more research is needed. Foth will continue his research, starting a new study in early 2006, with Patricia Becker from the U of A's Faculty of Education, to look at the way seniors navigate websites and the specific ways that navigating the Internet may reverse cognitive declines.

"The good news is a lot of people have been working on it; the further good news is there is a lot of work to do," said Foth.

## STREETERS

On Tuesday, Québec journalist Michaëlle Jean was sworn in as the Queen's new representative in Canada, replacing Adrienne Clarkson.

What do you think of our new Governor General?

Eva Godkewitch  
Arts IIIKarabo Pilane  
Science IMelanie  
Smolarchuk  
Education IVNate Cox  
Sciences IV

I like that she's from out of the country, that she's a lot younger [than the previous Governor General], and at least has the background to show that she's made of something.

She's black; that's good. And I hope she doesn't waste all my money like the last one. But otherwise, I don't know much about her; I haven't heard too much. But it seems like a good idea to get a new one. What does the Governor General do, anyway?

I think the new Governor General is good, because she's in a minority group and she's a quote-unquote immigrant from another country, and we haven't really had that in our society. It's always been kind of the "white male" situation... I think it's excellent that our country's trying to get over the stereotypical white indoctrination that's been going on.

I heard she has ties to separatism in Québec, and I'm not down with that; if she's representing Canada.

Compiled and photographed by Scott C Bourgeois and Arielle Sabos

# Annual FunDrive keeps CJSR on the air

DAVID BERRY  
Managing Editor

CJSR might call themselves Radio Revolutionaries, but there's one thing that never changes for the campus radio station: late September always means it's time for the CJSR FunDrive to get under way.

The station that occupies 88.5 on your FM dial is back again this year, and asking for your help to get them through another cold, hard year of campus broadcasting. This year's FunDrive runs from 7am tomorrow until its conclusion at midnight Sunday, 9 October. CJSR hopes to raise \$125 000 with the drive—they pulled in a hefty \$132 000 last year—which will feature concerts and speakers in addition to the usual host of volunteer DJs sweet-talking their way towards funds on air.

But, as program manager Daryl Richel explained, though the FunDrive is the most important event of the year on the CJSR calendar—it raises a full one-third of the station's operating budget for the year—the best part of the whole event is seeing the station's over 200 volunteers throw themselves wholeheartedly into helping the organization.

"We talk a lot about how the station puts passion before profit, and that's more true during the FunDrive than anytime else during the year," said Richel.

One thing that has changed for CJSR this year is that the station has recovered its charitable status, lost due to an administrative error over ten years ago. Richel explained that the regained status allows the station to do things they haven't done for a long time.

"One of the things is that we're able to put a banner on the Groat Bridge; we haven't had that for years and years and years, and you have to have charitable status to do that. We're also going to be able to give tax receipts to listeners [who donate], and haven't been able to do that before," Richel said. "They may seem like small things, but frankly, I think they're important."

The charitable status has affected one thing a bit negatively, though: due to



SHOW ME THE MUSIC Daryl Richel displays the stacks of records at CJSR.

restrictions placed on the type of gifts a charitable foundation can reward its donors with, the famous CJSR swag that has accompanied a donation in the past is somewhat diminished this year, Richel said.

However, he added that there are still plenty of benefits in donating to CJSR, and even some intangibles that come with DJs not having to hawk hoodies and t-shirts to get donations.

"Frankly [less focus on gifts] makes me happy, because it means that our DJs have to speak to listeners more about how important an independent media outlet like CJSR is, compared to spending more time talking about how we've got this, and we've got t-shirts, and we've got that," Richel said. "Basically, I like to say it's truth over trinkets."

Still, some items will be given away, such as mugs and courier bags with CJSR logos, and a calendar featuring pictures of CJSR DJs and bands heard on the station.

"And, of course, everyone who donates more than \$25 will get that tax receipt. I know it's not very sexy getting a tax receipt, but you know," added Richel.

Besides swag, there's also the inherent satisfaction of keeping an independent and vital media source alive in Edmonton.

"CJSR is supposed to constantly challenge the status quo with an entertaining mix of music, politics, art, and la la la la la..." Richel said. "But, the easy answer is that CJSR is a voice for the voiceless, and it's important to support that."

## Low turnout expected for SU by-elections

Elections to fill vacant seats expected to be uneventful, as many positions are left without interested parties to run for student government jobs

BY-ELECTION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woyonowski, turnout is largely a factor of the visibility of candidates, so it's important for candidates to spread the word and actively campaign.

"By-elections do have a really low turnout," she said. "It really depends on how much work the candidates do promoting themselves, whether they put up posters, classroom speak, or put up banners. I'd love to see the candidates do more of that, because the more people they talk to, the more people know about the organization, the more people come out to vote, and the more relevant Students' Council becomes to the average person."

That can be more difficult, though, when eight of nine races have only one candidate each.

"When it comes down to a yes/no vote, and 'no' has never won a race, it's hard to get motivation to campaign," Woyonowski noted.

Nonetheless, Woyonowski insisted that it's important for students to get

out to vote if there's a race in their faculty, and that unopposed candidates shouldn't necessarily get a free ride.

**"When it comes down to a yes/no vote, and 'no' has never won a race, it's hard to get motivation to campaign."**

RACHEL WOYONOWSKI,  
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

"In the uncontested races, I think voting is just as important as in the contested races. It's a chance for students to look at the individual who wants to represent them for the rest of the year," she said.

"This person could speak for every other student in the faculty. If you agree with the candidate, vote yes, and if you disagree, vote no, because this is the person who's going to represent

your interests."

Part of the reason for the low number of candidates in this year's by-election is that the larger faculties that tend to get more interest, such as Arts, Science and Engineering, have few or no seats available, so most vacancies are in smaller faculties that traditionally have trouble attracting candidates.

"I think maybe the smaller faculties have a harder time learning about the elections," said Woyonowski. "That's something we've worked to combat a lot this year, specifically by getting information out to first-year students through Orientation and making sure all the faculty associations get information about the available seats and how to fill them."

Those efforts may have had some success: Woyonowski reports that several candidates are first-year students, which traditionally hasn't been the case even in the general elections, while the Open Studies and Nursing faculties each have candidates for Council for the first time in several years.

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21, 2005



**TAKING A STAND** A group of locked-out Telus employees protested outside the Students' Union Building yesterday. DANIEL KASZON

## Telus lock-out debate continues at U of A

Striking employees protest Telus recruiting student workers on campus

HIRING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We aren't here to be talking about the labour dispute," Gedeon said.

This failed to satisfy many of the students, and the end of the session devolved into a flurry of questions and noncommittal replies.

The labour dispute began on 21 July when, after four years without a contract, Telus employees under the TWU stopped working. Johansson explained that the TWU forced the dispute by refusing to let its members vote on the Telus offer.

"The negotiations reached an impasse. The TWU decided to go on strike on 21 July, which is a day before we implemented the terms of a new

contract offer for our employees. Since that time, approximately 56 per cent of the unionized employees in Alberta—the majority—have actually come back to work. So they resent their own union denying them the right to see the contract and then to vote on it, so they've come back to work."

However, Hidari said that Telus employees did not willingly strike, but were effectively locked out.

"Two months ago, before we started walking the streets, [Telus] decided to impose their previous contract offer, rather than negotiating a contract with the union and having the union bring that to the membership for a vote. Telus presented their offer and said,

"OK, this is our offer, we've imposed this contract as of now." Once that occurred, we were effectively locked out of our previous collective agreement and of the streets."

A day after the work stoppage began, the Canada Industrial Relations Board, a quasi-judicial tribunal which presides over the interpretation and administration of the Canada Labour Code, found Telus guilty of bargaining in bad faith, influencing the collective bargaining process and interfering in the administration of a trade union.

Telus had also planned to recruit workers at universities in British Columbia this year; however, the sessions were all cancelled.



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# Camp examines Alberta's environment

Student group organizes 'Eco Camp' at Lake Wabamun this weekend to discuss the environmental challenges faced by today's Albertans

HANNA NASH  
News Writer

This weekend, a group of environmental activists from the University of Alberta and similar organizations will be meeting at the Alberta Eco Camp to discuss how the world's dependency on natural resources has affected Alberta's environment.

**"Part of the reason why the camp is out at Wabamun is because we wanted people to see first-hand what is impacting Alberta's environment. Number one, there was a major oil spill on the lake in August, and there are also three different power plants that you can see from the camp."**

MIKE HUDEMA, CAMP TRAINER

The Alberta Eco Camp, which will be held at Camp Meyvian, will be running from tomorrow to Sunday. The camp will train approximately 60 youths from across Canada, as well as

San Francisco, Mozambique and South Africa, on different peaceful strategies to protect Alberta's natural resources and environment.

Mike Hudema, former U of A Students' Union president circa 2002/03, will be one of the trainers on the camp.

"What we're going to be doing out at the camp is basically giving people an overview on what the current situation in Alberta is with regards to the environment," said Hudema. "Alberta's environment is really under attack. We're losing approximately five acres of forest every minute, and ninety per cent of the logging is still being done through clear-cutting. We're also going to be talking about Alberta's tar sands, which is one of the contributors to global warming."

The camp will be held on Lake Wabamun, which was affected by an oil spill this summer on 3 August, when a 43-car CN train derailed from its main line, spilling heavy bunker fuel into the lake.

"Part of the reason why the camp is out at Wabamun is because we wanted people to see first-hand what is impacting Alberta's environment," he said. "Number one, there was a major oil spill on the lake in August, and there are also three different power plants that you can see from the camp," said Hudema.

Hudema is currently working with the Environmental Direct Action Network (EDAN), a U of A-based

student environmental group with his organization Global Exchange, as well as Greenpeace, The Rainforest Action Network and the Ruckus Society.

"The second part of the camp is going to be about what we can do about our environment. So, as citizens, we're going to look at some of the tools that we have in our tool box that we can use to make some really significant changes," said Hudema.

Hudema thinks that the environmental situation in Alberta can be better, but the provincial government will have to enforce stricter conservation laws. But first, more pressure from Albertans will be needed before the government will decide to change its regulations.

"The number three priority for Albertans is the environment," said Hudema. "A recent government survey shows that people are really concerned. Yet Alberta remains the province with the most lax laws in the country. Right now the government is listening to big business. And big business doesn't want environmental regulations. That's who has [the government's] ear, because they have millions of dollars to put into government lobbying."

Hudema hopes that once the camp has ended, more environmental groups within Alberta will be created to target corporations or specific government issues, and run efficient environmental campaigns to effect change.

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## Postsecondary review forum questions gov't funding; students want more money

FORUM • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Students can no longer be the stop gap between a lack of government funding and a university's budget. If the government is serious about investing in its future and creating a thriving and diverse province, postsecondary education is that first step," said Power.

Blaine Ho, a graduate student in psychology from 2000 until 2004 at the U of A, recommended to the panel that the government redirect funding to improve the student loan system to prevent long-term debt for graduates.

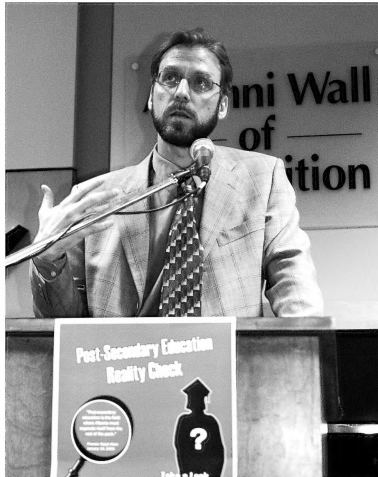
"I'm paying about \$200 worth of interest every month before I even start paying the principle," she said.

Debt after graduation wasn't the only problem discussed, as participants said student poverty is also evident. David Feldman, executive director of the Campus Food Bank, explained that, when the food bank first opened in 1991, 250 people used the service, while last year saw over 2300 people come through—and the numbers have been increasing so far this year.

Larry Bool, former President of the Alberta Teachers Association and current NDP MLA, said that despite the wealth in Alberta, things are getting worse for education because the government is addressing a market approach to schooling.

"The principle should be: postsecondary education is a matter of the public interest, and it's a public good, and we will run it through public investments," he said. "We don't have a financial problem, we don't have an educational problem, we have a political problem."

Pannu agreed with Bool, stating that



EDUCATION MATTERS Bill Moore-Kilgannon organized yesterday's forum.

the NDP is opposed to the government's plan for education, and wants to include the public in the future of postsecondary.

"I think it's important that we engage in a public debate," Pannu said.

Moore-Kilgannon said he was pleased with the outcome of the forum, and hopes the government

review will consider the issues that were raised.

"We heard some very powerful personal stories," he said. "I also think what we heard was a definite call for a new vision of postsecondary education."

This was the first of seven panels put on across the province, with an attendance of about 30 people.



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# Queen's homecoming riot provokes end to 'soft policing'

DAVE WEATHERALL  
CUP National Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP)—In the wake of an alcohol-fueled homecoming party that saw a mob of approximately 6000 partiers launch hundreds of beer bottles at police officers and each other—as well as overturn and set alight a parked car—Kingston police Inspector Brian Cookman said the time for soft policing is over.

"I wouldn't be surprised if you see public order units and other methods of crowd control like tear gas next year," said Cookman, the officer in charge last weekend when thousands of Queen's University students, Kingston residents and people from across the country embarked on a rampage on Aberdeen St, about two blocks from Queen's.

The events resulted in 35 arrests and 18 criminal charges, and have forced Queen's to reconsider hosting a homecoming in 2006.

"A comprehensive review and

rethinking of traditions [such as homecoming] and practices that may play a role in such offensive, illegal and dangerous behaviour will be carried out," Queen's principal Karen Hitchcock said in a statement released on the University's website.

Aberdeen St is composed entirely of rental units, save for one house that's home to an elderly couple. Following the weekend's events, the University received complaints from the couple's family, saying the two had been "held hostage" by the mob and that their house and car had been severely vandalized.

Reached by phone, Pat, a Queen's engineering student who asked that his last name not be used, said the University will never cancel its homecoming.

"It will weaken the University's relationship with its alumni," said Pat, who lives one block away from Aberdeen St. "There will always be homecoming; it was probably bigger this year because there were more police officers out. I

mean, they had SWAT teams running around and there were no injuries that I know of."

Besides the 18 runs Kingston ambulance services made from Aberdeen St to Kingston's local hospital on 24 September, Cookman said ambulance personnel were pelted with beer bottles as they tried to retrieve a half-conscious woman who was lying in on a street strewn with broken glass.

"They also launched a beer bottle through a fire truck's front window," said Cookman. "That prevented them from putting the fire out."

Despite deploying virtually the entire Kingston police force—nearly 115 officers were on duty over the weekend—officers were totally outnumbered, something Cookman said he hopes to address next year.

"We're looking at a number of options," he said, refusing to rule out asking the RCMP for assistance.

Part of the problem, said Cookman, is that the reputation of Queen's homecoming has spread nationwide,

meaning Kingston can expect an even higher influx of out-of-town revelers this time next year.

**"It was probably bigger this year because there were more police officers out. I mean, they had SWAT teams running around and there were no injuries that I know of."**

PAT, ANONYMOUS QUEENS  
UNIVERSITY STUDENT

"One of the people we charged over the weekend was from Dalhousie University in Halifax," said Cookman. "Another two that we stopped for having open liquor said they were from BC and had come down just for

homecoming."

Policing the homecoming is both a human resources and financial strain on the city, and Kingston city officials say they don't intend to foot the bill any longer.

Queen's Associate Vice-President and Dean of Students Janice Deakin said city officials are currently tabulating the total cost of the weekend's events and will sit down with the University to determine who will pay what. The report is expected to be released in November.

Because of the extra strain caused by this year's events, Cookman said officers who had been on-duty for 24 hours with little rest weren't fully prepared to deal with a homicide that occurred the next morning.

"When you're investigating a murder, you have to give 110 per cent, or a killer can go free," he said. "It's not fair to the Kingston community that a murderer gets away because our officers were out babysitting 6000 unruly partiers all night."

## York University engineering students stuck with second-rate degrees

AMY CHUNG  
CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP)—Students graduating from York's four-year-old engineering program now face additional barriers, as the program failed to meet government standards—making it the only engineering program in Ontario that is not accredited.

2004 graduates and fourth-year students this year will receive an unaccredited degree, thus requiring them to take additional examinations to receive something resembling an "accredited" designation.

The Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) issues its review of engineering programs after the first students of its program graduate, and they concluded that York's doesn't meet the necessary standards.

As with law and medicine, engineering is legally regulated by the

provinces, and certification examinations are required to obtain professional engineer status (PEng). There are 37 accredited engineering programs across Canada, and York is still in the midst of getting the green light for the designation by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) and the PEO.

Students who graduate from accredited universities also have to pass certification exams, but one component of the exams is proving technical competence—a criteria York's program is unable to prove its students meet, according to the PEO.

According to the director of engineering at York, Richard Horney, engineering students from an accredited program do not have to prove technical competence.

"The PEO is looking at our programs to see whether our students have to do anything else to satisfy

technical competence, but we don't know that just yet. We will find out in December," said Horney. "If the students need to take the technical exam, the University has agreed to pay for the course required for them to do that."

Nonetheless, the program's failure to meet the standards has infuriated students.

"We are paying that money to say we graduated from an engineering program ... and we put in a lot of time and effort and we want to be able to say we graduated from York Engineering without having people say, 'It's not accredited,'" said Cale Ettenberg, a fourth-year geomatics engineering student.

But the academic frustration of students will likely only increase once they enter the workforce.

According to Deborah Wolfe of the Canadian Council of Professional

Engineers, students without accredited degrees will lose out when it comes to jobs, especially in the international market.

Canada has mutual recognition agreements with other countries, including the US, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Japan and France, but only students with an accredited degree are academically qualified in those countries.

Wolfe went on to explain that the other countries don't recognize the PEng designation because the CEAB only has an agreement on the education level.

"It's an unfortunate situation, but when it comes to benefits, it's pretty important," she said.

The four-page PEO report identified inadequacies regarding the program's accreditation. Although the academic curriculum was fine, the PEO judged that there aren't enough professional

engineers teaching classes.

"The document was revealing a lot of information about structure, finances, programs and the courses," said Horney. "It's highly confidential; no university lets anything out like this to the public domain. The actual text was not available, because it's too easy to copy and it would be detrimental to both the students and the University if it was passed around."

One international student from India, who asked to be identified as MK, said she feels there's been a lot of ambiguity about the accreditation.

"If I knew the program was not accredited, I would have just stayed in India to study," she said. "Why am I getting less than what I paid for?"

The department will reapply for accreditation in 2006 and will be notified of the PEO's decision in the summer of 2007.

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**Earth and Atmospheric Sciences**

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Room: Tory 3-36

**Agriculture**

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## Equal to one thousand words

ON MONDAY NIGHT, Lynndie England, an American reservist, was sentenced to three years in prison for her role in the abuses at Abu Ghraib in 2004. The latest in a chain of convictions and plea bargains, England is best known for being photographed while aiming an imaginary gun at the genitals of a naked Iraqi detainee—with a smile and a “thumbs-up.”

Since England and her pals decided it would be a good idea to share their photographs over the Internet, the “vacation” snapshots have become the most infamous photographs from the recent campaign in Iraq. Historically, there have been many instances similar to Abu Ghraib, but the media and the public have mostly yawned, while governments were able to hide behind claims of false reports and lack of evidence. When the Abu Ghraib images were released, however, public outrage was the direct cause of an inquiry into the armed forces’ conduct overseas. First, we uncovered the absurd prevalence of torture practices; then we learned that Abu Ghraib was not an anomaly, but the result of official torture policies developed at Guantanamo Bay.

When England led an Iraqi prisoner around by a leash, naked, like a dog, she was just following standard procedure. Today, thanks to her friend’s digital camera, these pictures will likely be burned into our collective consciousness as emblematic of how the United States mishandled Iraq.

This is an extreme example of the palpable impact photography can have on world opinion. Other, less materialistic, examples come to mind: Ron Fieberle’s smuggled images of the slaughter at My Lai during the Vietnam war, which became a focal point for the anti-war movement; also from Vietnam, Haiyinh Cong U’s image of young, naked children fleeing a napalm strike; or, more positively, the National Geographic photograph of a green-eyed Afghan child by Steve McCurry, which spawned countless thousands of dollars in donations.

In spite of this, the role of photography in journalism is seldom emphasized. Pictures are often seen as just pretty-looking space-filler for a lazy editor, or some nice colour that helps sell issues. Are newspapers only about words?

As Susan Sontag points out, “Words alone, words add, words subtract.” But the simple digital images from Abu Ghraib did something heaps of pundits could never do: they cemented in the minds of Americans the questionable nature of the war in Iraq. Without editorials, without politicking, without whimsy, England and company brought the American eye into focus, and offered a damning indictment of war-hungry America. And now, the photographs serve to, almost single-handedly, place a score of American soldiers behind bars. Photography is a cache untouched by wordsmiths—they show what actually is, undisputed and undisguised.

MATT FREHNER  
Photo Editor

## Telus isn’t innocent

THIS PAST TUESDAY, TELUS, everyone’s favourite phone provider, held a job fair on campus (read all about it on the cover). This is a fairly normal event for a large corporation on a University campus, except for the fact that Telus just happens to be in the middle of strike/lock-out, depending on who you ask.

Telus claims that the purpose of this job fair isn’t to recruit replacement workers, as the type of jobs being advertised are “not roles that would... replace workers,” according to one of their spokespeople. Forgive me if I don’t buy this. Telus is a corporation, after all, that has been using workers without a contract for over four years now. When their union started getting its act together, Telus took actions so rank that they were chastised by the Canada Industrial Relations Board for operating in bad faith. On top of this, they’ve also allegedly rewarded workers who crossed picket lines with presents like gift certificates and iPods.

I’m sure, of course, that their job fair was entirely innocent, though.

DAVID BERRY  
Managing Editor

*I think I’m the best Canadian Idol host since John A Macdonald*



## LETTERS

**People have a right to diverse explanations in science class**

In response to Tim Peppin’s article “Intelligent design has no place in science classrooms” (22 September), this article was the first time I’d heard the term “intelligent design,” and my first reaction was quite the opposite of Peppin’s. To me, the term is an attempt to unify all creationist perspectives into a coherent concept independent of specific denominational beliefs, rather than only the traditional Christian perspective. Science includes theoretical explanations for empirical events, to be included in the scientific spectrum until it has been proven incorrect. In my opinion, the theory that an omnipotent being deliberately designed and created the universe has not been proven wrong, which is the essence of intelligent design by Peppin’s own assertion.

I’m not talking about the Genesis stories, as I would be naïve to uncritically believe in stories written by biased authors thousands of years after they took place. Peppin claimed intelligent design isn’t a true theory, as it “makes no verifiable claims [and] cannot be falsified through experimentation or observation.” In my opinion, neither does evolution theory. All the empirical “evidence” I’ve seen consists of findings similar to beliefs of scientists and assuming they must have come from a common ancestor.

The idea that an intelligent being found a system that worked and adapted it to other species seems just as probable an explanation. Most likely species, including humans, have evolved according to the laws of natural selection, considering the archaeological evidence of *Australopithecus* and *Homo Erectus*. But who’s to say an omniscient being didn’t put them

there in the first place? On a more personal note, I find the theory that a creature as complex as a human evolved from a single-celled organism is ridiculous, but it is my opinion and others should respect that.

That’s the bottom line of trying to establish intelligent design theory in the classrooms: the fact that people have a right to experience diverse opinions. I think trying to indoctrinate children with evolutionism is just as bad as trying to indoctrinate them with creationism.

DANIELLE BLACK  
Arts III

## Corpse Bride review insulting—lovers of the dead deserve respect

It was with great surprise and shock that I read the *Corpse Bride* review that appeared in the *Gateway* (“*Corpse Bride* dead on arrival,” 27 September). I would have previously assumed that a publication as large and as prominent on campus as the *Gateway* would try to its utmost to avoid discrimination, yet it was within your pages that I felt personally discriminated against. As a necrophiliac, I was offended.

Engaging in intimate acts with dead or dying bodies is one of the most loving things that a person can do. Once friends and relatives have moved on and left their loved-one’s body alone to rot, it’s us, the necrophiliacs, who give these people one last bout of frantic—yet still highly erotic and passionate—lovingmaking.

By trying to steer people away from *The Corpse Bride*, you are discouraging a whole generation away from a potential lifestyle that many find fulfilling and highly rewarding. Many in the necrophilia community are hoping that people go see this movie in mass numbers, thus potentially letting us gain more respect in the mainstream.

While necrophilia is indeed illegal, many view this as a victimless

crime, similar to marijuana use and jaywalking. Movies like *The Corpse Bride* are needed to show the public that loving relationships between people and corpses can, in fact, exist.

JARED P TIMLOW  
Brampton, Ontario

## Policy on operating system architecture needed to stop spyware

I read with interest Patrick Ross’s article regarding the spyware programs on his parents’ computer (“Canadian law must address spyware,” 27 September). I’m an IT professional with a utility regulator. I don’t want to trivialize the efforts of lawmakers on technology issues, but to date they have been pretty much ineffective. What is required is a governmental policy statement that operating systems must have protection, either by architecture or by inclusive applications, that secure the user from unwanted programs.

Right now, I can’t even look at my tax status without using a vulnerable operating system. Such is the sad state of affairs in our government and information technology in general. Driving a bus is starting to look pretty lucrative.

WARREN J BROWN  
Calgary, Alberta

## You’re responsible for your computer, not the government

It saddens me to see the article by Patrick Ross (“Canadian law must address spyware,” 27 September), as it shows some deep misunderstandings about the problem of spyware and possible solutions.

Most important is to realize that spyware does not just magically appear on your computer. It’s put there through your own actions. Lots of “free” software comes

bundled with spyware; most of the time the installer will even tell you what’s going to be installed.

There is a smaller portion that exploits security holes in your web browser. Less can be done about this, but using Internet Explorer on Windows is just asking for trouble; Firefox will be much nicer to you and your computer.

Even if we can somehow justify making it illegal for someone to agree to install spyware, this is not a problem that can be legislated away. Look at how effective anti-spyware laws have been. If I install something from a Chinese warez site and suddenly I have a dancing stripper on my desktop, who exactly gets charged, and how are the feds going to reach them? The identity theft argument is a complete non-starter, as we already have laws against identity theft.

And finally, my big complaint: nobody can take control of your computer unless you let them. Your computer is not a sanctuary unless you make it one. You ultimately have control (and responsibility) over what software your computer runs. If that software has problems, then stop using it! Hell, do something crazy and talk to Librarian Students Digitally.

Making laws because you can’t be bothered to fix your own problems is silly and ultimately pointless.

BRENDAN TAYLOR  
Engineering II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students’ Union Building, or e-mailed to [opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca).

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

## Opinion



One of these mice is fat.

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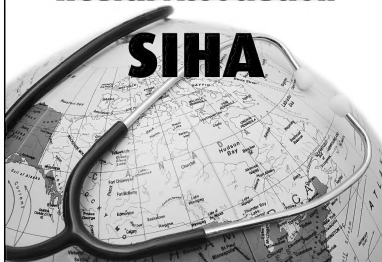


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JACKIE NEPESU  
TO INFINITY AND BEYOND The U of A could use some cartography lessons from Rand McNally: campus maps suck.

## You are where? Campus Orientation maps stink



EVAN  
SMITH

I'm fairly new here. And seeing as I spend my Sunday mornings in front of the mirror practicing my scowl, I'm constantly surprised that, while on campus, people actually talk to me. It's not because they're friendly and social human beings, though; that's just not plausible. No, these chronic socialites always want something, and it isn't always charity or robbery. They want something more sinister: directions.

I don't understand how these people can tell that I know my way around. Apparently something about an Arts student in a Gap shirt yells "your guide." I can barely step a foot out of SUB or HUB or CAB without someone asking me the way to SUB or HUB or CAB. Don't get me wrong: I'm a nice enough fellow. With a nod and a smile I point out the best path like a little campus directory. And roughly 80 per cent of the time they get there safe and sound. But why ask poor ol' me? I'm new, too! Didn't you all get a map in those books they were handing out all through week one?

And then it hits me. The map. It sucks.

It isn't just the fact that, through an odd and poorly understood quirk of geometry, buildings look different from above than they do from ground level. It isn't just that the acronyms change depending on the map you've got. And it isn't even that everything is painted the wrong colour. At the true root of the problem is the lack of detail.

In my pre-undergrad years, I would occasionally end up on campus. Usually this was because my mother figured that since dental work at Dent/Pharm (E5) was both educational and cheaper, it was therefore ideal to leave your pearly whites in the hands of a trainee and her drill. Needless to say, I would sometimes take pre-emptive action and get myself lost. Well, not lost exactly. You can only get lost if you're going somewhere. The only somewhere I was heading to was not Dent/Pharm.

The upshot of this, of course, was that I soon got my bearings. What also helped were the aerial maps over by the bus station. Now there, my brothers, are maps. Being inside and nowhere near the U of A, I can't describe them perfectly, but in my mind's eye they're the holy grail of cartography. Well, okay, not quite that, but they were certainly better than the goat flesh they put in our booklets. Buildings were labelled, not abbreviated. Hallelujah!

Still, they lacked something, so I went looking for other campus maps. I could bore you with the details of my adventures, but I'll just tell you about two that I found.

It's on public display—possibly for shame—on floor two of SUB (E4). It's yellow and on a wall—you should know when you see it. It's so jumbled that I had to stare at it for a long time before I figured it all out. I hope it was some kid's failed attempt at a Father's Day gift. Someone should at least have the decency to throw a curtain over it.

Now we come to the point of my story. Map two can be found in the MicroStore (E4) at I can only describe as the southeast corner. It is a little pamphlet. On one side it has an ad I never bothered to pay any attention to, and on the other is your map. What's good about this one is that it's: A) acronym free! B) has the eye candy C) fits in your pocket D) accurately tells you where you are as long as you're in east SUB and E) has my seal of approval.

So to whoever's in charge of printing the Orientation day-planners, do us noobs a favour. Go get yourselves one of the MicroStore maps, make it bigger, and use it next year. Add labels showing where underground routes are, make sure it's up to date—and while you're at it, throw in a You-are-here sticker for the kiddies to play with. At least one of us will be grateful.

## Alberta has better ways to use its wealth—like nukes



AARON  
BRAATEN

People say that the Klein government's decision to dole out \$400 "prosperity dividends" is a sign that our provincial government has more money than the gas. Some claim that good governments have clearly defined goals for the future, and that the money should be spent on legacy projects that will yield some economies of scale through the construction of cutting-edge infrastructure. Given examples include a high-speed train between Edmonton and Calgary, or government investments that serve to diversify Alberta's economy. Others go so far as to suggest that Uncle Ralph is trying to give a boost to Xbox 360 sales this November.

I argue, however, that any vision is better than no vision at all, and that the following projects, while they may not be the most feasible or practical, at least present some modicum of imagination and vision for Alberta's future.

First, a casino/strip-club/RV boom-dock/taxi-based escort service/cheque-cashing facility north of Fort McMurray. Position a Vegas-style casino resort along the southbound lane between Fort McMurray and the tar sands projects to raise gambling revenue. I can't

believe this hasn't been done already. Workers would be tempted to pay their gambling tax before they even made it into town on Thursday nights. The Alberta government takes in \$1.2 billion from gambling in the province—that's more than the 2004 take from crude oil and tar sands royalties combined. The recent police bust of a Hell's Angels drug ring in Fort Mac makes it obvious that workers have few recreation opportunities besides snorting fat balls of white lightning off the top of toilet seats. Put it all in one place and tax it, I say.

You don't like that? Then how about a nuclear facility in Northern Alberta? This idea was tossed around a while ago because the scarcity of natural gas increases the cost of fuelling steam/electrical cogeneration plants in tar sands production. It might not be in the best interests of Alberta, however, since it would create an alternative to natural gas—the real source of Alberta's wealth. But, in the long run, after the separatists take hold of the commanding heights of Alberta, the future leader of the Republic of Oilberta, Stephen Harper, could just opt out of the Nuclear Proliferation treaty and start a nuclear weapons program. The Reds would hate that, but who'd be doing the talking at the end of this investment?

Still don't like it? Then let's have a natural gas firewall around Alberta. A nuclear facility would lower the price of natural gas, and would free up the

supply enough to place a literal wall of fire around the province's perimeter—you know, to keep the lazies out. Just imagine what a ten-metre-high wall of flames would do for inter-provincial relations. In conjunction, we should build giant, windmill-powered fans. The province should harvest wind energy from near Pincher Creek and use it to power giant fans at Fort McMurray to ensure that all the carbon dioxide makes it to Toronto.

These ideas are retarded, you say? Then we should provide interest relief for students from all provinces. Alberta already attracts the best and brightest job-seekers to the province as it is, but this ought to be made obvious. Ontario would have to be the supplier of much-needed engineers to Alberta.

Last, if you didn't like any of those, we could build the world's tallest skyscraper—in Red Deer. This idea is my little brother's, but it's a good one. Red Deer currently has no high-rise buildings, so a huge tower would stand out even more than it would elsewhere. Who cares if the office space sits empty? Who even said it had to have office space? Just make sure there's a sour gas flare at the top.

As horrible as some of these proposals are, they at least illustrate that the government of Alberta, in its current incarnation, has little to offer. Even in the midst of our wealth-generated apathy, many Albertans just want some vision—not, necessarily, a lame duck debate.

## Fwd: you should be castrated for sending this

### Stupid e-mail forwards are destroying the Internet, so stop sending them



DERREK GREBSKI

If you're paying attention, you're surely noticed that we live in an age of wondrous technology. This is an era in which a wily soul can browse the Internet, yammer into a wireless phone and microwave a tasty burrito all at the same damned time. E-mail is debatably the most important of these advancements, as the ability to engage in virtually instant written communication has literally changed the way people interact and do business. It should come as no surprise, then, that e-mail has also become the most effective means of irritating the living crap out of friends and family.

E-mail forwards. If you're like me, and the laws of physics suggest that you're not, these two words are enough to send shivers down your curved spine. These of us fortunate enough to have jumped aboard the Internet bandwagon early in the game have become accustomed to involuntary cringes whenever a message arrives with the words "too cute" or "too funny" in its subject line. Invariably, the message in question is neither cute nor funny, but that certainly doesn't prevent the onslaught of such offerings from those who

hyperventilate at the very idea of a kitty or puppy doing anything. Isn't it precious, the way it pokes its head out from under the couch?

No. I appreciate the innocence of baby animals just as much as the next jerk, really, but I can only see so many examples of saccharine cuteness before I begin reaching into my unfeathered fist. Plus, these same images have circled the globe so many times that the animals in question are probably well into their old age by the time they hit your inbox.

And then there are the omnipresent examples of human stupidity. Look, there's a drunken frat boy, face-down in a puddle of his own vomit. Haw haw. Here's a woman whose shirt has been torn off by a ferri wheel or something equally ridiculous. Yuck yuk. I have seen more beaver shots through e-mail forwards than a seasoned gynecologist, and I wish to personally shoot whomever came up with the "priceless" advertising campaign for MasterCard credit cards. The horde of e-mail parodies that it has inspired are a plague upon the earth.

OK, I'm on a rampage here. Comedy and cuteness are both subjective, so I can't reasonably critique the quality of these messages without an understanding of the person who sends them out. So, from time to time, I approach the people from whom I receive these delightful correspondences and attempt to discuss one of the e-mail forwards he or she sent—just for the sake of research, you understand.

Without fail, the person in question has no memory of the adorable, hilarious or disgusting content of the message in question, and it leads me to the following conclusion: nobody actually looks at these godforsaken things. If my sleuthing is valuable at all—and it isn't—I think the truth of the matter is that there are just certain types of people who instantly salivate at the idea of sending e-mail, whatever it might be.

In many cases, these forwards arrive several at a time from the same sender, suggesting to me that he or she hasn't actually read the message, and simply wishes to get those things out the door as quickly as possible. E-mail forwards are like an electronic Christmas fruitcake, where one wishes to pass the dense misery on as soon as it arrives. Unlike an actual fruitcake, however, one only multiplies the ugliness by redistributing the forwards that one receives, creating multiple, identical fruitcakes. I hope this properly illustrates the gravity of the situation. With that in mind, let me end my treatise with an old-fashioned question and answer session, to quash any remaining uncertainties you may have.

Q: I have a picture of a cat, dog, car, airplane, human, office building or submarine doing something unbelievable. Should I send it to everyone I've ever met?

A: Obviously, yes.

Your friends and family can thank me later.

## Walk loudly and carry a big whip—Paul Martin and George Bush are screwing United Nations reform



MAUREEN BRINKER

important than helping people.

To add to this, his country's investment in cheap-labour nations has increased at a dramatic pace, while labour standards in his own country have fallen. He's made the United States one of five countries to execute minors, and has faced several reports telling of torture and indecencies inside prisons at Guantanamo Bay and in the Middle East.

Paul Martin, on the other hand, works very hard to hide his fur and velvet. He's like the Maclame of an upscale bordello—he's still pimping, but with a facade of respectability. But far from being respectable, Paul's a two-timing daddy. Canada is no longer the great nation of humanitarianism. Humanitarians don't make massive economic deals with the Chinese when the Chinese state denies surrendering nations the right to self-determination, and denies their own national religious freedom, free speech and simple things like labour regulations. Humanitarians don't stumble when called upon to pledge aid—aid

that a former prime minister, Lester B. Pearson, first lobbied for under the 0.7 per cent contention.

Les was no pimp. He wouldn't even dress up as one for Halloween. Surely, he must be turning in his grave. The UN that he knew negotiated Suez and the end of the Korean War, divided Palestine and established the middle power. Pauly's presence is nowhere to be seen in the Middle East. The UN has fallen by the wayside as an arbitrator, and more useful tools like guns are preferred these days anyway. But Mr. Martin takes no notice of events like the US reversing their ban on land mines—that's bad for business. After all, the era of peace is dead. It likely died with Les. Pimping humanitarianism is more fashionable.

The United Nations, once upon a time, was a good thing, and could achieve meaningful change. But that time now seems a fairy tale, because unlike Pretty Woman, the prostitute known as the UN will not have a happy ending. There's no such thing as a caring pimp.

students in the class came to listen to the professor, and not your whispering and giggling.

Maybe you think because you're whispering, nobody can hear you. Not so—we can hear you at least three rows down. So, to all the lecture conversationalists, here's your beating, and I hope that it damages whichever part of the brain is responsible for speech. I'm not sure which part of the brain that is, because I couldn't hear the professor.

BAILEY PILLING

This is why today's sack beating is more than deserved by the folk who feel that their \$500 classes aren't worth paying attention to, and spend the entire lecture gossiping with each other. I'm sure that most of the 300

THE BURLAP SACK

I can't speak for other students, but I'm paying for my education out of my own pocket. Mommy and Daddy didn't pay for me, and neither did the government. So maybe I'm a bit more protective of my investment than some others might be.

This is why today's sack beating is more than deserved by the folk who feel that their \$500 classes aren't worth paying attention to, and spend the entire lecture gossiping with each other. I'm sure that most of the 300

Never has an institution been more desperate for a makeover than the United Nations. Dressed like a hooker on Wall Street and under the whip of a pimp, in our dog-eat-dog world this cheaply dressed harlot will be taken advantage of. Unfortunately, the respectable leaders who are to reform her are the same ones holding the whip.

Perhaps holding the longest and most intimidating whip—one of those sadist/masochist flails with beads at the end—is George W. Bush. Clad in leather from head to toe, with a choker collar and spurs to boot, George is a malicious dominator with a consuming drive to get what he wants. Like a true pimp trolling for bitches, he saw Iraq, a land swollen with oil, wanted it, schemed like a greasball to get it and now will never cease to cause problems for it. He's already shored Iraq \$14.2 billion in reconstruction funds because he needs more money for security, since pimps go around screwing people—in this case, entire nations—self-protection is at a premium.

Nevertheless, George claims that, "No president has done more for human rights than I have." Somehow, I think thousands of Iraqis and many citizens of New Orleans would refute that statement, not to mention Kofi Annan and Hans Blix. After pledging an extra \$470-valued security, then a whopping \$104 billion to NASA, he proceeds to offer a generous \$14 billion for foreign aid; apparently exploring other planets while blowing ours up is more

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## More juice won't save space exploration



MICHAEL FOWLEY

and partner up for a better universe.

Wrong. Based on my memories of space travel, we've found just about nothing. A little bit of liquid that might be water, some rocks, a lot of nitrogen and a whole lot less gravity, all of which have almost no benefit to our evolutionary purpose. Oh wait, what about the wonders of GPS, which now ensures that nobody gets lost when they're in a rental car? That was a pretty good return on the oceans of money the US "invested" to send 50 lucky astronauts up in big, flaming phallic symbols. Yay, NASA.

Apollo on steroids, eh? People in space by 2020, eh? Thank god, I was worried we never get to space again. Wain't it four years ago we lost the Mars Orbiter because someone forgot which units they were working in? We've got to get up there and prove to all them aliens we ain't dumb. What's that, it's only going to cost about two Bill Gates and five Oprahs? Man, what are we waiting for? We've got golf to play on the moon!

To think we used to be apes—isn't evolution great! I mean, you take one of the weakest species on the planet, give them a little shelter, a computer, some time, some science and a dream, and voilà, they can fly. But wait, let's rewind a second, 'cause you gotta know where you've been to know where you're going, which I guess is the moon. Again.

Now, if I remember my grade nine science, we were apes, developed fine motor skills, grew bigger and got smarter. Somewhere through history, our basic needs were relatively fulfilled and our focus shifted to increasing the comforts of our lives. Enter telephones, cars, TVs and pretty much anything you use on a daily basis. The future holds even greater treasures, like watching astronauts walking on the moon on the little TV on my cellphone while they pitch 'n' putt. Okay, that's all good, but if space technology has become the new focus of our evolution, to what end do we pursue it?

Space travel is sexy, no doubt about it. It has the lustre of new frontiers, a plethora of unending utopias lost in the infinite space; places to move to, or at least vacation to, where playing two-kilometre-long super-hopscootch is easy. And think of all the other life forms swimming around in the Milky Way just dying to meet us

Despite all this, the US wants to send more minions into space. If I were a conspiracy theorist, I'd be thinking George W is opening up Star Wars again. But I'm not, so I'm guessing the prime motive has got to be diversion. Why else would they announce it between two monster hurricanes in a year where hundreds of American soldiers have died to fight the great white elephant war? What better distraction than the great abstraction of space?

**Based on my calculations, they might have to go really, really far to find anything in space worth bringing home.**

Actually, now that I think about it, if they're going to space with the goal of actually finding something, stellar Greek God flying machines might just be what the Texan ordered. Based on my calculations, they might have to go really, really far to find anything in space worth bringing home.

Enter chief of NASA Rafael Palmeiro. 'Yep, ol' finger-wagging Mr. Never-Ever-Taken-Steroids. Who better to figure out what an Apollo requires? Hell, ol' Raffy might be able to performance enhance 'er all the way to Jupiter. Assuming he takes, I mean makes, enough injections. And then, finally, those shiny astronauts can bring home some more golf stories worth talking about.



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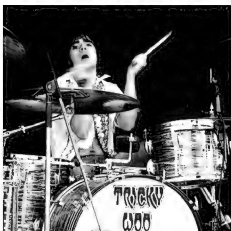
			
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## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE



### TrickyWoo

with *CMon, Starvin' Hungry* and *Bloodshot Bill*  
**Thursday, 29 September at 8pm**  
*New City Likwid Lounge*

Have a burning urge to go see a rock show put on by a group that's name sounds like a kung-fu movie? For possibly the only time ever, Edmonton has you covered.

After breaking up for nearly two years, the Montréal rock band Tricky Woo has returned, and after being back together for a year, the group is touring on a new record, *First Blush*. They'll be taking their brand of garage rock to New City tonight. Fronted by Andrew Dickson and featuring a backing lineup that includes flautist (yes, flautist) and vocalist Phil Burns, Pat Conan on drums and Eric LaRock on bass, many fans thought the group had peaked on their 2000 album *Sometimes I Cry*, after their 2001 follow-up *Les Sables Magiques* was met with mixed review.

*First Blush*, however, has fans re-energized for Tricky Woo, so catching this French foursome at their current peak might be a good idea—you never know when they'll break up again.



### Atmosphere

with *Blueprint and POS*  
**Thursday, 29 September at 7pm**  
*The Starlite Room*

For all of the negative associations with white rappers—namely Vanilla Ice—who have been a handful that have managed to achieve some level of notoriety in the world of hip-hop, Atmosphere, a rhyme-busting duo from Minneapolis, is one such group that has managed to beat the rap—pun totally intended—of white rappers.

The duo, Slug (aka Sean Daley) and Spaz (aka Derek Turner) have been staples in the hip-hop underground since their 1998 debut release, *Overcast*. Known for their freestyling and involved lyrics, the group is sure to be one of the best shows put on by a couple of white rappers this side of Suburbia.

While Slug's lyrics are often about the turbulent relationship he has with his ex-girlfriend, Lucy, even some clichéd topics can take away from a group that is otherwise known to be one of the leading acts in underground rap.

MICHAEL LAROQUE  
 Entertainment Editor

## Superband gets funky under their covers

Local group might be a cover band, but their versions have a funk level higher than the originals

### The Superband

with *Ol' Nick Sleeps*  
**Saturday, 1 October at 8pm**  
*Sidetrack Cafe*

AMANDA ASH  
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

When we think of cover bands, we often envision a bunch of middle-aged musicians droning on to a crappy version of "Total Eclipse of the Heart." And for the most part, this typecast holds some truth; due to lack of creativity, many copycat musicians never will make it off of your typical run-down casino stage. But for Edmonton's Superband, being cover artists isn't so bad—that is, if you know how to shop, do charity work, and dish out the funk.

According to bassist Jay Cairns, The Superband isn't your ordinary musical group. Rather than just churning out a bunch of songs that people may or may not know, the boys of The Superband consider themselves to be "a power-funk party"—in other words, they don't just play covers, they take those covers to a hipper, more original, level.

"[Music] can be just about playing the songs, but that's not what we do. That's what separates us from other bands," Cairns explains. "By being a cover band, we can still push the envelope to be forward thinking and forward moving. Superband, for me, is more than just playing gigs. It's a whole kind of philosophy. It's about wanting to get better, and looking

to do something different."

Cairns and his Superband partners—including Fred Benton (drums), Ian Alleyne (vocals), Orville Cameron (vocals), Curtis Ross (guitar), Doug Organ (keyboards), JC Jones (trombone), and Eric Weiden (trumpet)—also set themselves apart from the world of drab cover artists by being a group that is, well, super. Just like the awesome grade-school teams formed by picking the athletic and popular kids, Cairns' built the Superband from a bunch of talented musicians he'd gotten a chance to play with.

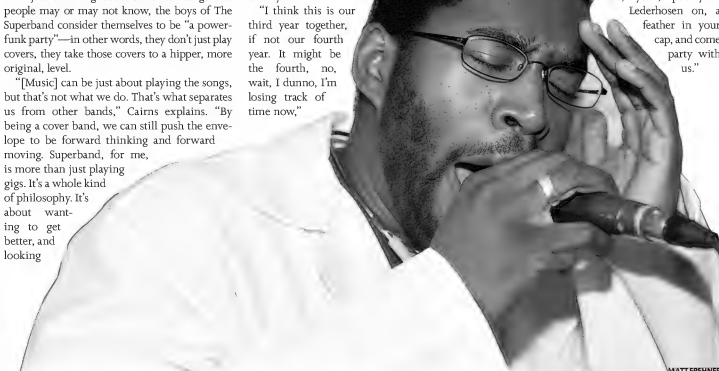
Even though it may seem snobbish to some to create a cliqué of established musicians, the guys are far from being such a group. To add to their list of unique cover-band characteristics, Cairns explains how they never turn down the opportunity to play for charity.

"I think this is our third year together, if not our fourth year. It might be the fourth, no, wait, I dunno, I'm losing track of time now."

Cairns contemplates. "But anyways, we threw the band together a few years ago for charity. Basically, this private group puts on a party, and then the money earned gets donated to various charities like Santa's Anonymous. We've done it every year since, and it's been great because it's sort of a funk collective."

And without a doubt, the Superband boys seem to be the funkiest cover band in Edmonton. And, according to Cairns, you too can be cool—one you have to do is slide on down to the party of the hour, happening this Saturday at the Sidetrack Cafe.

"It's Funktoberfest," Cairns explains. "We always try and do a special event and give the show a theme to make it a little more fun. We're just trying to have some fun, put on a good show, and play some good music. So, yeah, put your Lederhosen on, a feather in your cap, and come party with us."



MATT FRESHER

## Black Dice roll out noisy, experimental songs

### Black Dice

With *Blood on the Wall and Red Medicine*  
**Friday, September 30 at 8pm**  
*Victory Lounge*

JAMES STORRIE  
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

If the noise-rock pioneers of New York's Black Dice have one request when they pass through town this week, it's that you don't judge an album by its cover. Or, to put it more succinctly, that you don't assume anyone called a "noise-rock pioneer" has to be some sort of pompous hipster.

Bjorn Copeland—who creates all sort of bleeps and bloops as the trio's guitar player—explains that while accusations of pretentiousness are understandable, they're "knee-jerk reactions."

"Our motives are really unpretentious," says Copeland. "It's a basic concept: a couple of people who really like music and really want to make music that they haven't heard before. I think that has always been at the forefront for us; when you can't find what you want to hear on a record, write it yourself. I don't think of that as pretentious at all. If you just want something really easy to dance to or with a really catchy melody, well, I like that stuff too, so I can understand that. We've just been doing this so long that we all understand that there's no point trying to convince people one way or the other. All you can really do is play your shows, make your records and have fun."

Copeland, along with his fellow instrumentalists Aaron Warren and Erik Copeland, has certainly been playing a lot of shows and making quite a



few records. Since their breakout release, *Beaches and Canyons*, in 2002, Black Dice has been touring and cutting records with a who's-who of the musical avant garde, including such diverse acts as the psych-folk riffing Animal Collective and noise-metal vanguards Wolf Eyes. If being known as a pretentious rocker has any upside, says Copeland, it's in having free creative range.

"I really feel we can do anything we want, and I don't think that's a freedom that everyone really has," explains Copeland. "Once you start working in a format that's really established, there are a lot of trappings to it, and I think that's why, in a lot of ways, music doesn't evolve, bands don't evolve. You find something that works for you and you pound it into the ground, which is fine, I guess, but I don't want to hear a slew of Zeppelin cover bands. Getting to do something of our own is

what we're really interested in, so some songs feel like we're playing it then right off of a Jay-Z show, and the next are just like the most fucked up jazz concert. To me, that's just a way of wrapping up all the bits that we love about music and making it into its own thing."

But not, Copeland stresses, a thing so bizarre as to be completely inaccessible. While Black Dice's noise-to-beat ratio may be very high for so-called "normal" music, Copeland still maintains that they're getting at the same thing as nearly everyone else. Just, he explains, "with a completely different vocabulary." And, if after all of that you still don't buy into it, well, that's all right.

"This is fairly abstract music, and you can't expect everybody to get into it," says Bjorn, with a chuckle. "When people can't hang with it we try not to take offense."

# Into the Blue heads straight into the trash

## Into the Blue

Directed by John Stockwell  
Starring Paul Walker, Jessica Alba  
and Scott Caan  
Opens Friday, 30 September

JOHN KMECH  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The sad truth is that nothing this review says will prevent people from viewing this movie. The presence of a bikini-clad Jessica Alba and a hairless Paul Walker should have thousands of salivating teenagers of both genders out in droves to empty their pockets into the movie studio coffers. It should at least be attempted, however, to save a lucky few from this mindless drivel.

Walker stars as Jared, an easy-going SCUBA instructor who lives in a trailer in the Caribbean with his girlfriend Sam (Jessica Alba). In their unexplained abundance of spare time, the pair dives for sunken gold. After meeting up with their old friends, Bryce (Scott Caan) and his partying girlfriend Amanda (Ashley Scott), the couple takes their friends on a dive that turns up actual treasure, leading the group to believe that there could be a worthwhile find in the area.

While searching, Jared discovers a submerged plane filled with cocaine. Chaos and adventure ensues as the drug dealer returns looking for his stash, Bryce tries to convince Jared to sell the drugs, and all of them try to determine whether a legendary ship filled with treasure may be buried right underneath them.

To be blunt, the presence of Paul Walker does not bode well for any film. While he could have vanished into Hollywood oblivion (please, Paul, for the children), he continues having roles, which seem to guarantee a future career as a professional homebody. Never before have the lines for a single actor every consistently contained so many variations of "bro" or "dave," as if being stuck in a loop of buddy talk. To add to this, one can only hope that no one challenges him to a starting contest, as his vacant expressions could bring any challenger to their knees. Fortunately for the audience, Walker tends to spend large chunks of time underwater, somewhat limiting the exposure to his dialogue and gaze.

As Jessica Alba, the Dark Angel star is one of the most naturally beautiful actresses to come along in a while, but unfortunately she decides to fill her resumé with fare like *Honey*, *Fantastic Four*, and now this. While it's obvious that the central point of this production was to get her into a bikini, one imagines that she could still do much better.

**The characters in the movie do things so ridiculous it's hard to believe anyone could be that dumb... At least three times, characters have SCUBA tanks run out of air, almost killing them. Isn't Jared supposed to be a SCUBA instructor? A key ingredient to safety in scuba diving, it could be assumed, would be oxygen.**

The direction of John Stockwell is confusing, to say the least. Like his previous movie, *Blue Crush*, the ocean cinematography in this film is well done, but with *Into the Blue*, he attempted to make two different movies: a buried-treasure-hunt movie and a drug-deal-gone-wrong movie. These two productions were then apparently spliced together, creating a mess that drifts between small bouts of plot development and long periods of pointlessness. He's directing like he needs to get all his cinematic ideas on the screen right now before the chance is gone. Perhaps he has seen the future.

The main reason films like this are frustrating is because they assume that the audience is stupid, and therefore can suspend reality to any level. The characters in the movie do things so ridiculous that it is hard to believe anyone could be that dumb. When the group swims through the wreckage of the plane, they do so only with a snorkel, in an area where they could



IT'S ALMOST HYPOTONIC, BRO! P-Walk's vacant gaze permeates the film.

easily get trapped and drown. At least three times, characters have SCUBA tanks run out of air, almost killing them. Isn't Jared supposed to be a SCUBA instructor? A key ingredient to safety in scuba diving, it could be assumed, would be oxygen. The characters also have an odd expertise on the history of pirate treasure, so much so that they immediately guess what the sunken ship could hold. It's practically impossible to care about any of these characters, a fact proved as laughs erupted from the audience when one of the characters was bitten

fatally by a shark.

Delayed almost two months, *Into the Blue* would have fit right in with the quality of most movies from the summer of 2005. Unfortunately, the delay set it right at the beginning of the fall season, when higher-quality films are released in preparation for the Oscars. In comparison, this is pap. Hopefully, audiences ignoring cash grabs like *Into the Blue* will push production companies into the red, forcing them to start releasing more thoughtful and entertaining fare.



**Bruce Campbell**  
*Make Love! The Bruce Campbell Way*  
by Rick Kirsch  
www.bruce-campbell.com

BEN CARTER  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After his performance as the immortal time-traveller Ash in the *Evil Dead* cult horror/comedy trilogy, what else could there be for b-movie superstar Bruce Campbell to accomplish? The answer lies in the world of books on tape, the medium for Campbell's most recent book, *Make Love the Bruce Campbell Way*. Unlike with most recorded literature, where the author simply talks into a tape recorder and collects a cheque, Campbell hired a troupe of actors and recorded *Make Love* like a radio play, further giving this recording his own distinct persona and attitude.

Campbell, as himself, is cast in an A-list Hollywood romantic comedy starring Richard Gere and directed by Mike Nichols—in spite of the objection of the studio, the complaints of his unimpressed co-stars, and most humorously, his own unfamiliarity with the Hollywood movie machine. Campbell's strength lies with his self-deprecating wit and his B-movie star personality.

Still, *Make Love* isn't without its fault—as minor as they may be. His skills at writing and character development leave much to be desired, but his deficiencies are minimized through his lampooning of movie stars, the movie business and, most often, himself.

Those unfamiliar with Campbell's work may dismiss this as simply an inconsequential farce. But for those whom Campbell, not Vin Diesel, is their idea of an action superstar, you're in luck. The man you've watched countless times at numerous birthday parties and video game extravaganzas throughout junior high is at his big-chinned, self-deprecating best.

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## Violence, but without the blood

*A History of Violence* will please both casual moviegoers and the most rabid Cronenberg fans, even though it may be one of his least-graphic films yet

### *A History of Violence*

Directed by David Cronenberg  
Starring Viggo Mortensen, Maria Bello,  
Ed Harris and William Hurt  
Opens Friday, 30 September

EDMON RUTEA  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Most of David Cronenberg's previous films have always been imbued with a subtext of social commentary. *Rabid* tackled the issue of paranoia and disease epidemics, while *Videodrome* dealt with influence of corporate-owned media on the human psyche and body. *A History of Violence* similarly stays true to its title: it's a film that deals with violence, hidden histories and dual identities.

Devoted David Cronenberg fans may be disappointed, however, given that *A History of Violence* will lack the signature gore, oddities and exploding heads of his past films. Instead, Cronenberg's latest effort is more of a "gothic thriller" that's palatable to mainstream casual filmgoers.

At first, the film plays like a Stephen King drama: the setting is a small rural American town situated in the Midwest. Tom Stall (Viggo Mortensen) is a devoted family man and owner of a local diner. Initially, Stall appears to be just like any other typical American everyman—he's hardworking, honest and a caring father and loving husband.

But one night, during the diner's closing, two strangers waltz in demanding coffee, later holding the

diner's waitress and patrons at gunpoint. Stall saves the day, finishing off the two robbers with some coffee-pot-throwing heroics and enough gun fire and spent ammo casings to make the Punisher look conservative by comparison. After the incident, Stall's life changes forever: he's labeled a hero by the town and is hounded for interviews and pictures by the media circus that takes up residence in the town.

**Cronenberg succeeds  
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mentary that have  
made his other films  
controversial.**

first tries to deny the allegations, the confrontation with Fogerty starts off a chain of events that causes Stall's identity to unravel, and his true identity to be revealed.

As with all Cronenberg films, the script's subtext is often subjective yet powerful. *A History of Violence* subscribes to the same formula of his past work: Tom Stall's life mirrors that of American society's love affair with history. The rest of the world may fall prey to fancy façade of the "American Dream": a life with a nice home, family and a picket fence. Yet American society also has its own long history of violence: a bloody revolution, assassinations and massacres committed abroad, and many never-ending wars. The film presents itself as not just a story about a reformed hitman, but a study on human nature and character. Which part of Tom is his true identity, and which part will he go back to by the end of the film? At the end of the day, while the American dream can always be salvaged by a nice home-cooked meal waiting for them at the dinner table, the past sins of Tom Stall might not be so easily erased.

Cronenberg succeeds with *A History of Violence*. Although the film may be unlike his previous efforts, it still features the signature make-up effects, unpredictable plot and the social commentary that have made his other films controversial. For those who enjoy violence, or those who are appalled by it, *A History of Violence* is worth seeing.

The unwanted attention brings scar-faced mafia boss Carl Fogerty (Ed Harris) to the diner. Fogerty makes veiled references and antagonizes Stall about being a former hitman named Joey Cusack. While Stall at



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14  
VIOLENCE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

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DO YOU THINK HE'S STILL ALIVE? According to *Mana*, people's beliefs can have an effect on objects and symbols.

## Do you believe in a thing called Mana?

New documentary film investigates the power that our beliefs have on objects

### *Mana: Beyond Belief*

Directed by Peter Friedman  
and Peter Manley  
30 September—2 October at 9pm  
Metro Cinema

PATRICK ROSS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"Everyone believes in something," asserts the promotional material for *Mana: Beyond Belief*. Belief would be considered by most to be something of an abstract concept, and while individual beliefs can often make for a compelling topic, most wouldn't consider the idea of belief itself to be an ideal subject for a documentary film.

When beginning the project, directors Peter Friedman and Roger Manley faced the challenge of how to document the phenomena of belief.

The film opens in New Zealand, where a Maori priest explains the idea of mana—a form of energy, some believe, that is present in everything, and even in people. Friedman and Manley make the idea of mana an understated theme throughout the film, as we watch people react to ceremonies, as well as objects of belief.

"The old Polynesian notion of mana provided the key," explains Manley, in the film. "They realized long ago that the meaning and power of things is based on what we know or believe about them. An old weapon that had killed a lot of enemies had much

more mana than a new weapon. But actually, that's the way people think about all kinds of things."

**As a result, not only was *Mana* obviously a challenge for Friedman and Manley to make, but it is also challenging to watch. While at times the film grips the viewer tight and manages to keep hold of their interest, at other times it leaves the viewer at odds with his or her own attention span.**

*Mana* takes its audience on a world tour, exposing viewers to many such "power objects." The objects in question range from the sacred (the shroud of Turin) to the somewhat frivolous (low-riding cars), and from the beautiful (Rembrandt's "The Man with the Golden Helmet") to the grisly, when we are, at one point, introduced to a man who collects the desecrated body parts of famous people.

*Mana* is, in many ways, a unique

accomplishment in the art of documentary filmmaking. By forgoing a typical narrative style reliant on voiceovers, *Mana* has put the "document" back in documentary, taking a step back and simply capturing events on film and letting them speak for themselves.

As a result, not only was *Mana* obviously a challenge for Friedman and Manley to make, but it's also challenging to watch. While at times the film grips the viewer tight and manages to keep hold of their interest, at other times it leaves the viewer at odds with his or her own attention span.

The film was shot in the increasingly popular High Definition format. The result is a visually stunning presentation that at times truly captivates the audience, drawing them into some of the film's most fascinating moments. Visually, the film is a unique product, particularly because it lets these visuals speak for themselves. This would likely make this film frustrating for the casual viewer—no one explains what's going on, and all the viewer has to make a judgment upon is the behaviour of the people on screen. But, then again, this is the point of the entire film. *Mana* is an exploration of the concept of belief itself, with the individual beliefs being immaterial for the purpose of this film.

Even at a mere 90 minutes, *Mana* feels much longer, and it should. You better believe that watching this film is hard work.



**The Most Serene Republic**  
Underwater Cinematographer  
Arts & Crafts  
www.arts-crafts.ca

RACHEL MWESIGYE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Have you ever wondered what music under water would sound like? Well look no further. The title of *The Most Serene Republic's* debut album describes a sort of underwater experience in itself, and the eleven tracks serve as a reminder that quantity does not necessarily mean quality. The group puts their listeners into an unobtainable trance with their quiet-but-refreshing, quirky, and not-so-melodic sound.

The group showcases their unique look at feelings and beauty with tracks such as "In Places, Empty Spaces," which showcases their great vocals, while bringing the indie-rock sound alive. The tracks "Prologue" and the

relaxing melody of "King of No One" capture a sweet blend of instruments and passion.

On the other hand, tracks such as "Proposition 61" and "Where Cedar Nouns and Adverbs Walk" leave the listener wondering where the passion in their album has gone. These songs turn the album from harmonized melodies into a racket in a matter of seconds. This blaring seems to be the groups quick-fix for the abstract lyrics.

The Milton, Ontario natives, who dropped out of high school to pursue music, have made an astonishing mix of tunes. Unfortunately, it lacks a certain genius that hopefully their sophomore album will be able to offer.

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## 2005 University of Alberta Info Sessions

**Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**  
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**Education 165**



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**Thursday, 6 October, 2005 at 6pm**  
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## Tentative agenda:

- Introductory remarks •
- Approval of 2004-2005 GSJS Audit (Ellis, Govenlock LLP) •
- Announcements •
- Refreshments •

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to 6 October and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you have made five or more contributions to the Gateway in the 365 days prior to 6 October and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at [ejc@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:ejc@gateway.ualberta.ca). This meeting is also open to the public.

For more information, please contact the  
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## Underage worker on the Strip

16-year-old comedian Mike Tod takes his acclaimed act to the Comedy Strip

## Mike Tod

29–30 September at 8pm  
The Comedy Strip,  
West Edmonton Mall

JESSICA WARREN  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Any high-school teacher can tell you that there's no shortage of 16-year-old comedians in the world today, but it would be difficult to find a high-school student actually making a living from his jokes. Mike Tod is one of the few who can make this boast, and as one of the youngest comedians telling jokes to audiences that are often more than twice his age, so it's all the more humorous to hear how "things really started clicking in grade 9."

"I started doing this two years ago at Yuk Yuk's in Calgary," recalls Tod. "I read a book about Jim Carey the year before, and it said he started at Yuk Yuk's when he was 15, so I kind of wanted to beat his record. I went up on stage when I was 14 and became the youngest person in history on the Yuk Yuk's stage."

**"I said the F-word onstage once. There were a lot of drunk people in the audience, and the show wasn't going well, so I just dropped the 'F-bomb.' ... It didn't help out my act at all, incidentally."**

MIKE TOD

Since then, Tod has continued to take part—and find success—in the late-night comedy scene, going so far as to win first place at Funny Fest Calgary, the youngest person ever to win the title. A grade eleven student in Calgary, Tod has spent more time performing in front of mature audiences than in front of his own peers. Despite his recent Funny Fest award, Tod admits that not many of his fellow students are aware that he's making a name for himself outside



of the locker-lined halls of his high school.

"Only a couple of my friends know that I'm a comedian. I don't like to advertise it in school. I don't know what it is, a fear of embarrassment maybe. I'm not really the class clown, so it's just not who my friends think I am, I guess."

Time spent observing the world around us can be a more important aspect of comedy than hurling spitballs at the roof, and Tod is honing his skill by attacking a number of different topics in his routine. His first act onstage was a five-minute trade about dentists, and lately he's taken on pop culture icons like Paris Hilton and Carrot Top. While his most popular jokes revolve around puberty and the experiences it entails, Tod says that sometimes the laughs just aren't forthcoming, and his reaction to an uncooperative crowd can rival that of any adult's.

"I said the F-word onstage once.

There were lots of drunk people in the audience, and the show wasn't going so well, and I just dropped the 'F-bomb.' I said it out of anger, and my dad was in the back and I went a little wide-eyed onstage. It didn't help out my act at all, incidentally."

"F-bombs" and parental supervision aside, by the time he graduates in 2007, with four years experience making those of drinking age laugh, he'll likely feel more at home among the drunks, jeering masses than any of his older schoolmates. Tod intends to pursue comedy as far as the medium will take him, with him even planning to attend an American university because the comedy scene in the States is more developed. Heck, the hallways of high school have proven to be a fertile creative environment for Tod so far, so maybe the university experience—from its oafish frat boys down to the stereotypical evil dean—will afford him the same comedic opportunities.

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# SPORTS

sports@gateway.alberta.ca • Thursday, 29 September, 2005

## Football Bears in deep against visiting Bisons

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
Sports Staff

A gridiron classic could be in the making this weekend at Foote Field. When the Golden Bears football team comes out of their week-long hibernation on Saturday to host the Manitoba Bisons, two of the nation's premiere offensive teams will clash in a battle for first place in Canada West.

Both Alberta (3-0) and Manitoba (3-1) sit tied atop the conference standings and in conference scoring. This should translate to plenty of offensive fireworks when Manitoba comes to town looking to hand the Bears their first defeat of the season.

"They've got a very big offensive line, a very controlled passing game and they've got a running back that can hurt you. If we don't control those facets of their game, it could be a long afternoon," said Bears head coach Jerry Priesen. "They have some very skilled players, and when they can put those skills together as a team, they can go toe-to-toe with anybody, so they're going to be a challenge for us."

Challenging may be an understatement on Priesen's part, as not only do the Bisons sit near the top offensively, but they're also second in the conference on the defensive side of the ball. That could be bad news for an anemic Alberta offence that has struggled to find its groove early in the season, and would be in worse shape if not for the potency of its ground attack and a scattering of big plays.

"Offensively, we haven't been consistent, or really controlled the game," said Priesen. "Though, when you look at our second half from Regina, we put up some big yards and that's what we want to do every game ... put up points in a methodical and consistent manner."

The return of two-time All-Canadian running back Jared Winkler to a starting role should help open up the Bears attack and give opportunities for the team's passing game to flourish. Winkler, who is in the conference's top ten in rushing despite recovering from a torn ACL incurred last season, is expecting a battle from a talented Manitoba squad, and the toughest test the offence has faced so far this season.

"When you work your way slowly back into the lineup after a serious injury, it's nice to be



**LOTS OF OFFENCE** Wesley Cordick (pictured) and the Bears football team want to stay in first place this weekend when they play Manitoba. FILE PHOTO: REFFREY GREENHAUS

able to start a couple games and get some time under my belt before the push comes for the playoffs," said Winkler.

"They have one of the better defences in Canada West. They've got a lot of big bodies on the defensive line, and they've got linebackers that fill holes really well. It's something that I don't think we've come across yet in our first

three games, so it will be nice to play against a solid defence and one that ... will provide us with an actual test."

While the Bears' defence lacks the size that the Bisons possess, Priesen thinks that the unit's other attributes will more than compensate when game time rolls around.

"We aren't as big [on defence] as they are, so

we're going to have to use our speed in order to compensate for that," said Priesen. "We'll have to make sure that we penetrate using our speed and quickness, and force [their quarterback] to make a decision early."

Golden Bears football fans can start piling into Foote Field early on Saturday for the 2pm kick-off.

## Golden Bears hockey looks to turn the trick at the Brick

A trio of familiar rivals will skate their way into Clare Drake Arena to take part in this weekend's annual preseason hockey tourney

TREVOR PHILLIPS  
Sports Writer

The Golden Bears hockey team will be looking to lay claim to their eleventh Brick Invitational Tournament championship this weekend, as they'll host several of their Canada West opponents at Clare Drake Arena. The modified round robin tournament will pit the Bears against the Calgary Dinos on Friday and the Saskatchewan Huskies on Saturday night. The improving Lethbridge Pronghorns, who won the tournament two years ago, will also be making the trip to Edmonton, though they won't be facing the Bears.

"[We're] looking forward to it. I like our two opponents; they're two very good teams," said rookie head coach Eric Thurston of his Canada West challengers. "I consider [Calgary and Saskatchewan] to be two of the top teams in the country."

Though it isn't the end of the Bears' pre-season schedule, this weekend will prove to be their last taste of inter-conference competition. It's very important that the Bears get to see how they match up this year against their common opponents, and possibly rekindle a rivalry, or two, before the season starts for real on 14 October.

"This is a good test for us to see where we are

as a team and where we are technically in our games," Thurston said.

Coming off of a Saskatchewan tournament in which the Bears' difficulty on the offensive end cost them a first-place finish, Thurston is hoping for more efficient offensive production this weekend.

**"We don't approach this thing as trying to become an all-star, or winning individual records. Instead, we take the approach that we want to win our games. Exhibitions give us a good chance to work on our systems."**

CHRIS OVINGTON  
BEARS DEFENCEMAN

"We need to [make sure that] when we get our chances, we bury them," the coach said, adding that preseason tournaments are useful in helping to determine players' roles in the coming year.

Two players with prominent roles will be Ben Thomson and Ben Kilgour, as Thurston admitted they will be the face and personality of what is another championship-calibre team.

Both Bens had strong performances in Saskatoon last weekend, combining for three goals, and will be looking to build on that momentum.

"[Thomson and Kilgour] are tremendously skilled. They're two players that make our team a lot better both on and off the ice," noted Thurston.

The Bears are also looking forward to these exhibition matches, the opportunity to gel with their new teammates and to strengthen the ties between older ones on the ice.

"It's a good chance to work on our systems, get to know each other and develop team chemistry," said fifth-year defensive specialist Chris Ovington, the only member of the Bears who earned a spot on the Brick's All-Tournament team last year.

When asked about how to be successful in a pre-season setting, Ovington stressed team-oriented goals.

"We don't approach this thing as trying to become an all-star, or winning individual records," he said. "Instead, we take the approach that we want to win our games. Exhibitions give us a good chance to work on our systems."

As for the competition, the Bears' 40-game undefeated streak against the Dinos at this tournament definitely makes them a big favourite, thus shifting the interest to what should turn out to be an extremely competitive Saturday game against the Huskies.

"They have a strong program. From the net out, they're a very good team with a balanced attack and an experienced coach," Thurston said of the Huskies, who will certainly be looking to avenge the heart-breaking loss they endured in last year's Telus University Cup; this will be the first meeting between the two teams in Edmonton since they fought for the CIS championship last March.

Regardless of the Bears' success at the tournament, Thurston remains focused on the numerous challenges that lay ahead for him and his team this season. "Nothing is going to be easy this year; there aren't going to be any gimmicks," he said.

Thurston couldn't be more right. The Bears will be in very tough in every game they play this year, as everyone loves to go home saying they took a game from the reigning CIS champs. Still, with good chemistry and the return of quality talent to their roster, the chance of seeing another leader, white banner hanging from the rafters of Clare Drake Arena this time next year is a very real possibility.

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**WANTING TO GET EVEN** The Bears' soccer team gets another shot at the University of Victoria Vikes on Sunday.

SCOTT JENNINGS

## Bears soccer squad looking for redemption

UVic in town one week after holding off a furious Alberta comeback attempt

CARL CARTER  
Sports Writer

The main focus for the Golden Bears soccer team this weekend will be to make the scorekeeper break a sweat on Sunday when they take on the University of Victoria Vikes.

The young Golden Bears team is still struggling to find their stride this season, which has been attributed to their inability to find the net on a consistent basis. Their last road trip saw them go winless against UBC, Trinity Western and the same Vikes team they will be facing on Sunday at Foote Field.

"We've got to finish on our chances," said head coach Len Vickery, a statement heard a lot around the Golden Bears' locker room lately. "They're young, but they're ambitious, and Victoria always has a strong program, so they're always going to be extremely competitive."

According to Vickery, the team also needs to score early and score consistently. In the Bears' last game against Victoria, the Vikes got out to a 3-0 lead before the Bears were able to put two goals behind the Vikes' goaltender late in the match. The goals proved to come too late, as the Vikes were able to tighten up defensively and win the contest 3-2.

"We've got to make good on our chances, because the longer we go on not scoring, as much as we might have the balance of play and create the

better chances, if we're not converting them, we're going to pay a price later," said Vickery.

The lack of scoring is something the players also have in mind and are trying to overcome.

**"We have to take our chances when we get them, and if we don't, we're not going to get into the playoffs. We have to score goals this weekend and we have to win—I don't expect anything less."**

**MARK KORTHUIS  
BEARS MIDFIELDER**

"[Scoring trouble is] something I think we've known [about] for a while now, but we've got to score goals, obviously, and we've got to score them early," said Golden Bears midfielder Mark Korthuis, who scored one of the two Alberta goals in their last game against the Vikes. "If we don't [convert] our chances, regardless of how many chances we get, we can't win the game."

The Bears will also have to try and contain a potent Vikes' offence, which features rookies Cole McFarlane and-

Kyle Langseth, whose two-goal performance against the Bears in their last match made him the second-leading goal scorer in Canada West.

"They have a good tandem up front that we had difficulties with," said Vickery. "Obviously, now that we know about the two strikers, we have to get them sorted out—if we don't, we'll pay the price, as we did in the last game."

Vickery remains hopeful that his team will be able to pull everything together in time for their match this weekend, and said that, with a consistent attack that utilizes all of his players, they should be successful against Victoria.

"We need to get [the scoring] going earlier in the contest with a continued, tough performance, as we saw against Trinity Western and UBC," said Vickery. "[We need to be] tough defensively, but again, finding ways to score goals is key. We need a greater contribution in that regard."

As for Korthuis, it's win or bust this weekend for him and his teammates, as their season is quickly starting to run short.

"We have to take our chances when we get them, and if we don't, we're not going to get into the playoffs," the fourth-year player said. "We have to score goals this weekend, and we have to win—I don't expect anything less."

The Bears will play host to the Vikes on Sunday at 2:15pm at Foote Field.



**CALL IT QUIT, LANCE** When athletes shut the door within their respective games, they need to keep it shut.

## Attention sports retirees: go away

ANDREW  
RENFREESports  
Commentary

When people ask me what I plan to do when I graduate from this fine institution of learning, the first thought that comes to mind is retirement. After all, the reason people go to university is so they can get a better job, so someday they can relax and live out their years playing cards and watching daytime television, isn't it?

I've always understood retirement to be the stage in a person's life that's wedged between working and death—a reprieve from bills and hassles that afforded one the opportunity to sip Piña Coladas and bitch about the government. Lately, though, as I look at how professional athletes act, I've begun to wonder if my perception of retirement was wrong all along.

Take Lance Armstrong, for example. On 11 June, 2005, shortly before the start of this year's Tour de France, Armstrong was quoted as saying, "I do not intend to lose my last tour." After winning his seventh consecutive title, he kept his word and hung up his spandex shorts, retiring from the sport of cycling altogether. He could have lived out his life doing motivational speaking and soaking his lone testicle in the warm water of Florida. However, when a French sports newspaper accused him of taking performance-enhancing drugs, Armstrong suggested that he would come out of retirement to prove he

was not using drugs. In the end, Armstrong decided that he would not wage a comeback, which was the right choice.

Athletes turned retirees should spend time with their families and relax. They could spend the millions they've earned to live lavishly, and be jerks to fans that come to them seeking autographs, but whatever they do, they shouldn't come back to sports.

So what would be the big deal if Armstrong did make a comeback for the 2006 Tour? Well, he'd run a great risk of not winning, which would tarnish his perfect record. Perhaps good ol' Lance should look at the example set by Spaniard Miguel Induráin, a cyclist who held the record for consecutive tour victories (before Lance came along) with five from 1991-1995. Induráin ended up finishing eleventh in his final tour after setting the aforementioned record. Armstrong could realize the same fate were he to return. It's very rare that an athlete can go out on top, so to speak, and for those who do, a comeback from retirement stands to ruin that.

Another great example of an athlete who keeps drifting in and out of retire-

ment is Michael Jordan. His Airness retired from basketball, for the second time, in fact, in 1999 after winning the league MVP and NBA championship the previous season. It goes without saying that MJ was basketball's king when he announced his retirement, and many basketball fans would argue that he was the greatest player of all time. But, like the cat that just couldn't stay away, Jordan returned to the Washington Wizards in 2001. At this point, Jordan's age showed, his game had deteriorated, and instead of going out with a bang as he had in 1999, his career ended with a whimper in 2003.

If the lesson of Michael Jordan isn't enough to dissuade players from making a comeback, then perhaps they could look to NHL goaltender Dominik Hasek. The Dominator retired in 2001 after winning a Stanley Cup with the Red Wings. However, Hasek followed in Jordan's footsteps and returned in 2003 only to have an injury-riddled season, spending most of the time as a backup goalie to Curtis Joseph. Surely, riding the pine wasn't the way Hasek intended to finish his career, which is probably why he's trying yet another comeback with Ottawa this year.

Hopefully, Lance Armstrong and recent hockey retirees Al MacInnis, Mark Messier and Scott Stevens will get the message that retirement actually means that your career is over. Athletes turned retirees should spend time with their families and relax. They could spend the millions they've earned to live lavishly, or be jerks to fans that come to them seeking autographs, but whatever they do, they shouldn't come back to sport. They'll be doing themselves a favour in the end.

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It doesn't produce that satisfying clash of game tokens when you hit jackpot. It has none of the celebrity glamour and newfound popularity of poker. But huddled in a dark corner in many neighbourhood pubs, VLT machines are silently beckoning people to insert \$20 bills into them. It's a randomized game of chance that has no optimal gaming strategy. Yet every year, 15 per cent of Albertans will sit before these machines and hope that they will be the one who can beat the odds.

# No

**I**t was Saturday night and the lively atmosphere at the bar is palpable. Over in one corner, people were playing a rousing game of pool, while the busy waitress weaved between the tables, bringing cheap jugs of beer to eager patrons. People strained to hear each other as the loud music effortlessly drowned out their yelling. In short, it was no different than any given Saturday at this neighbourhood watering hole. But, for the first time, I noticed something about this bar beyond the pool tables and the jukebox—the VLT machines.

The machines were nothing new to this spot. They had been there ever since the provincial government started licensing them. There was even a poster displayed prominently by the door that disclosed the presence of said VLT machines. But due to what must have been blatant ignorance, that Saturday night was the first time I ever paid attention to them. The fact that we were seated directly in front of the machines made it difficult to not notice them. Though the night started with a lonely man hunched in front of a machine in the farthest corner, more and more people were drawn to the machines as the night went by.

It was hard to remain ignorant at such close proximity. Despite my vantage point, the seductive powers of the machines were all lost on me, as I barely comprehended why the men and women remained transfixed by the action on screen. While my friends and I loudly recalled the details of a competitive mini-golf game that happened earlier that night, the men behind us were incessantly feeding \$20 bills into the voracious machines. Their eyes glazed over as they hit the play button repeatedly, hoping that, this time, the pixelated cherries would line up. Their faces barely showed their disappointment when the cherries ended up scattered across the screen. Their unwavering concentration forbade them from leaving the machines unless they were itching for a cigarette or when their momentary winnings afforded them a drink or a slice of stale pizza. When they did that, we would embarrassingly shuffle our chairs to make way for these men. A mixed feeling crept up upon us as we were all aware the man who walked by had just lost upwards of \$500 in the past hour.

As disheartening as that was, a scene like this was not exclusive to this particular pub. It happens every night at various locations across the province. Though these machines are usually tucked in a corner, VLTs—short for video lottery terminals—are surprisingly popular amongst those who gamble. In fact, the most recent data conducted by the Alberta Gaming Research Institute (AGRI) revealed that about 80 per cent of problem gamblers seeking treatment from the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) named the VLT and its close cousin the slot machine as their preferred gambling format.

"While not many adult Albertans play VLTs,

there's around 15 to 20 per cent any given year, and those who play them regularly play them hard. And by 'play them hard,' I mean they play for long hours and they lose a lot of money," said Dr Garry Smith. Smith is a gambling research specialist with the AGRI, a consortium formed from researchers at the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge. The organization was created by the Alberta Government in order to persuade more government resources towards the support and promotion of research on gambling.

Zoria Wendel was one of those who played VLTs hard. Like many other problem gamblers, she started gambling at a young age. The fact that she was underage and was not permitted into most gambling premises never deterred her. Conventional leisurely games such as 31 and rummoli were frequently used for betting purposes.

"I've gambled most of my life. Gambling doesn't just start in casinos, you know. It starts at home, at a young age. This is quite often true for other people as well."

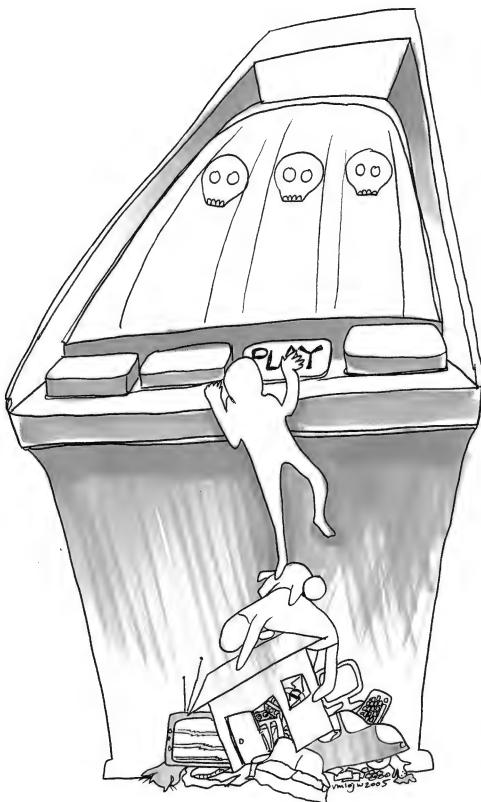
"But it only became serious five years ago," recalled Wendel of her personal experience. "I've gambled everything, but I've never lost everything like I did with the VLTs."

Stories such as Wendel's were not uncommon amongst VLT gamblers. According to Smith, more than half of the people who gamble on electronic gambling machines (EGMs)—an umbrella term that includes VLTs and slot machines—could be considered high-risk gamblers. Many of them experienced financial, emotional, family or personal crisis because of that.

"We looked at VLT players in the study that we did in 2004, and we interviewed just over 2000 people throughout the province at various locales. We found, quite surprising to us, that 60 per cent of those we interviewed could be considered as moderated risk or problem gamblers," said Smith. "That's excessively high. That's saying that over half of them in there are having some degree of difficulty with it."

In addition to this, Smith also observed that many gamblers were engaged in reckless behaviour that could drastically affect their gambling habits. Fifty per cent of the moderate or problem gamblers said that they gambled while they were drunk or high. This type of association, which Smith terms "co-morbidity," is unsurprisingly common among VLT gamblers, considering the location of most machines.

"Many [gambling] addicts have other addictions as well. In most cases, they're combining several addictions, in addition to smoking, while they play the machines, and this contributes towards their lowered inhibition when they play. This makes them more likely to play longer and spend more money than they thought they were," he said.



Feature by Iris Tse  
Illustration by Vivienne Jones  
Photo by Neal Wilding

# Winners

Recalling the men who whittled hours away before their machines, one could no doubt understand how VLTs are just the sort of mundane and unexciting game that would appeal to an inebriated mind. Unlike other forms of gambling, such as horseshoeing or poker, which require concentration and a certain degree of strategic skill, VLTs require neither skill nor an alert mind. In addition, they offer little of the monetary reward or sensory stimuli of other forms of gambling: the action is often so tepid that the highlight comes when the VLT spits out a receipt that looks no flashier than the slip of paper one gets at the end of the supermarket checkout line.

"By and large, VLTs are unappealing to people who are well-adjusted or doing well in their lives," explained Smith. "It appeals to people who are having difficulties in life, and they think that they can win and get themselves out of this dilemma that they're in."

"They also make themselves feel a little better when they win the occasional jackpot. When they do, the machine makes the noise, the lights come on, people look around, and for that moment, they're somebody—which they normally aren't in their regular life. And that bit of recognition is appealing to some people."

The thirst for attention and escapism was a common thread amongst most VLT players, as well as other types of gamblers. Smith recounted that, during his research, he encountered many women who had almost developed a relationship with their machines, akin to a form of intimacy, where the machine replaced their spouse. For instance, they'd stroke the machine, talking to it in loving ways, and pushing the button in certain ways.

Though Wendel had never resort to conversing with her machine, she admitted that the VLTs were her way of running away from life. They provided the sort of distraction that she wanted.

"I crossed over to VLTs when things went wrong in my life. It was another way to numb myself and escape from reality," she said.

While it's hard to pinpoint the origin of gambling problems, events such as domestic abuse, depression and various other difficulties in life, could all contribute towards addiction. Most experts and recovering addicts agree that the only way to eradicate the addiction is by finding the trigger event that drove the addict to gambling in the first place.

"The gambling is a coping strategy they use to make themselves feel better, and the bad part about it is that it works—for a while. When they're playing the machine, they feel a lot better about themselves. They feel more relaxed. They're away from their bad home life," said Smith.

"And while it worked, it's only momentarily, because, of course, they're not dealing with

the real root of their problem, and now they're losing money as well. So, while they feel better now, it's going to be even worse later."

Mike Lynch, an addictions counselor with AADAC, agreed with Smith's assessment.

**We looked at VLT players in the study that we did in 2004, and we interviewed just over 2000 people throughout the province at various locales. We found, quite surprising to us, that 60 per cent of those we interviewed could be considered as moderated risk or problem gamblers. That's excessively high. That's saying that over half of them in there are having some degree of difficulty with it.**

"I think what a number of my clients would say is that gambling was initially entertaining and fun and it provides them a time out. But it becomes more and more problematic, because they're not working on the issues that are driving them to their gambling."

The highly accessible nature of VLTs in bars and lounges and its heavy concentration in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas all contributes to the hazardous nature of them. Because of this, the EGMs such as VLTs by the provincial government also raises a philosophical question: should the government be hurting the welfare of some of the citizens?

In Alberta, problem gamblers contribute up to 47 per cent of machine revenues, and with estimated EGM revenue exceeding more than \$1 billion in the 2005/06 fiscal year, it's highly unlikely that VLTs will be eliminated any time soon. Besides, though a cap of 6000 machines is in place for VLTs, there is no cap on slot machines. As a result, the number of slot machines in the province is now edging towards 10 000. And although 15 per cent of slot revenues go to charitable or non-profit groups, none of the VLT revenues are distributed in the same manner.

"The government is in an awkward position because of conflict of interest, as they're the

one who are regulating gambling, but also benefiting from it. It's like they're being the player and the referee at the same time. Even if they are scrupulous about their behaviour, they still shouldn't have these two roles," argued Smith.

"The justification used most often by the government and the people is that the people who gamble are adults and they should be responsible for their actions and choices. But that's a fairly lame excuse, because an addict by definition isn't a responsible adult. They've lost control. Their assumption that everybody is responsible is not right."

The impressive revenues that bar owner receive from the placement of VLTs on their premises also make it extremely difficult to eradicate VLTs. While the gambler might be addicted to the game of chance or the opportunity to escape from their lives, bar owners were equally addicted to the revenue.

"An average machine gives the owners of the bar about \$25 000 per machine per year. And if they have ten machines, that's \$250 000. And this comes at little cost to the bar owners, since they don't have to purchase or service the machines," said Smith.

"It's like a windfall dropping from the sky. And by doing so, they've created constituencies of people out there who want to keep them."

Wendel, who at one point contemplated suicide, admitted that her darkest hours are now over. But, as program coordinator of

the Problem Gambling Resource Network of Alberta, she's remained very involved with those who suffer a similar predicament as she once did.

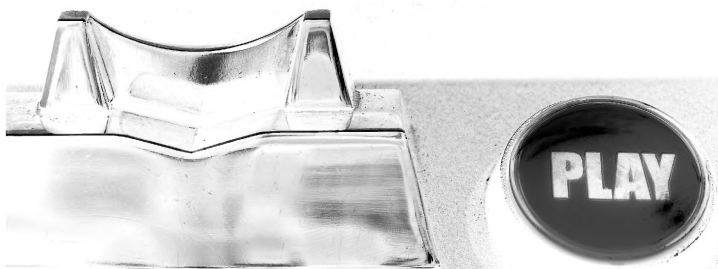
"The VLTs are the most poisonous out there," she said. "I've gambled other things, but have never lost control until I started playing the VLTs. The VLTs are the most addictive because they do work on the mind. The colour, the sights, the sound—it all adds to the experience."

While Wendel's comment could be discounted as disgruntled complaints, Smith said that VLT gamblers do often experience some form of impaired control due to the structure of the machines. Compared to other gambling formats, EGMs offered the highest number of opportunities to wager in a specific time period compared to other gambling formats.

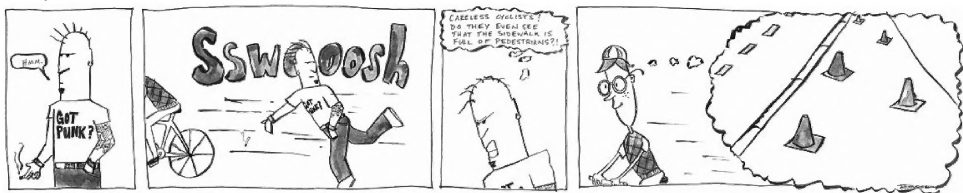
"A lot of people feel that the structural characteristics of the machines themselves make them addictive. The alluring lights and the sound of the machines, the speed of play, the very rapid turnover, the graphic and interactive elements are all created to retain people's attention. They're designed to get people to play longer and put more money into it."

"The guys who make the machines use psychologists to study human behaviour and examine the variables that will get them to play more. So there's an insidious process there where they try to addict people," said Smith.

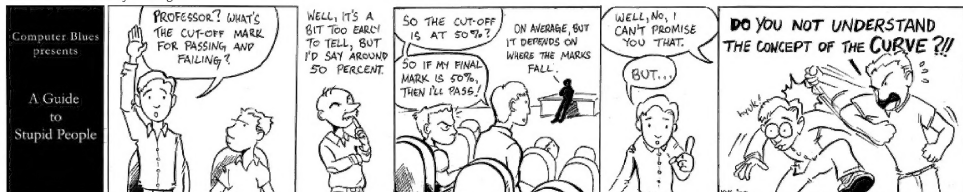
Back in the bar, it was 1am and we finally had enough of each other's company. As we stood up to leave, the man who was sitting in the corner took the opportunity to squeeze by and get some change for his \$50 bill. The phone number of the AADAC helpline scrolled slowly across the screen, reminding people to seek help if it stopped being a game. But the person who could use this message the most was not there to see it.



BILLY by Nathaniel Fournier



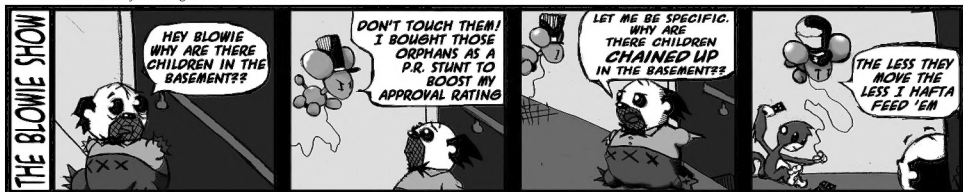
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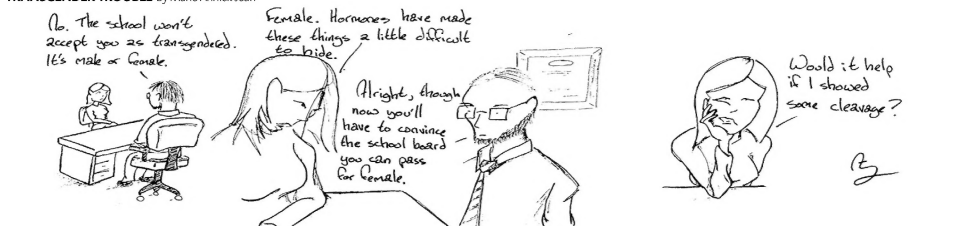
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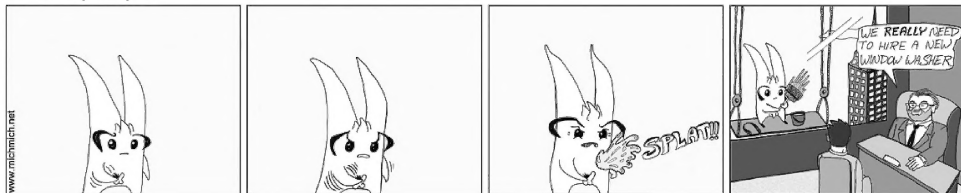
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